

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 16, 2003. For the following reasons, it is believed that the entire application is in form for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It will be noted that these claims have been cancelled without prejudice. This rejection has therefore been rendered moot.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings because of the use of reference numeral "102a" in Figure 4 was used twice to denote two separate portions of the antenna. In response thereto, a minor drawing correction has been made when one of the reference numerals "102a" has been deleted. The reference numeral "102b" denotes the outermost edge of the reflector 102. A corrected drawing sheet showing this change is also being submitted herewith. Reconsideration of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 7 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Densmore et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,398,035). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, it will be noted that independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 have all been amended to more positively recite that the azimuthal axis exists "at an outermost edge" of the main reflector. This structure is not shown or suggested by Densmore et al. In the system disclosed in Densmore, it will be noted that the axis of azimuthal rotation is clearly forwardly of the outermost edge of the antenna aperture 66. This is shown in Figure 4b. The positioning of the point of rotation well forward of the antenna 66 does not result in minimizing the swept arc of the main reflector, which is the fundamental purpose of the present invention. By locating the azimuthal axis of rotation at the outermost edge of the main reflector, as shown in Figure 3 of the present application, the swept arc is minimized. This is an extremely important consideration for any reflector that needs to be rotated in the azimuthal plane while being enclosed underneath a radome. The antenna of the present invention allows the size of the radome to be reduced because of the minimized swept arc in the azimuthal plane that results from the precise selection of the azimuthal pivot axis at the outermost edge of the reflector.

It will further be noted that Densmore is not concerned with the problem of minimizing the swept arc of a curved reflector dish of an antenna system. Instead, Densmore is concerned with minimizing or eliminating the elevational attitude control for the overall antenna system. Densmore does not appear to say anything whatsoever about more precisely locating the azimuthal axis of rotation relative to the reflector to minimize the swept arc. For this reason, it is believed that the independent claims now clearly define over Densmore et al and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims, based on Densmore et al, is respectfully requested.



REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-6, 8 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Densmore et al in view of Spano et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,204,823). In view of the amendments to the independent claims made herein, and the remarks directed to Densmore et al, it is believed that the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot. Reconsideration is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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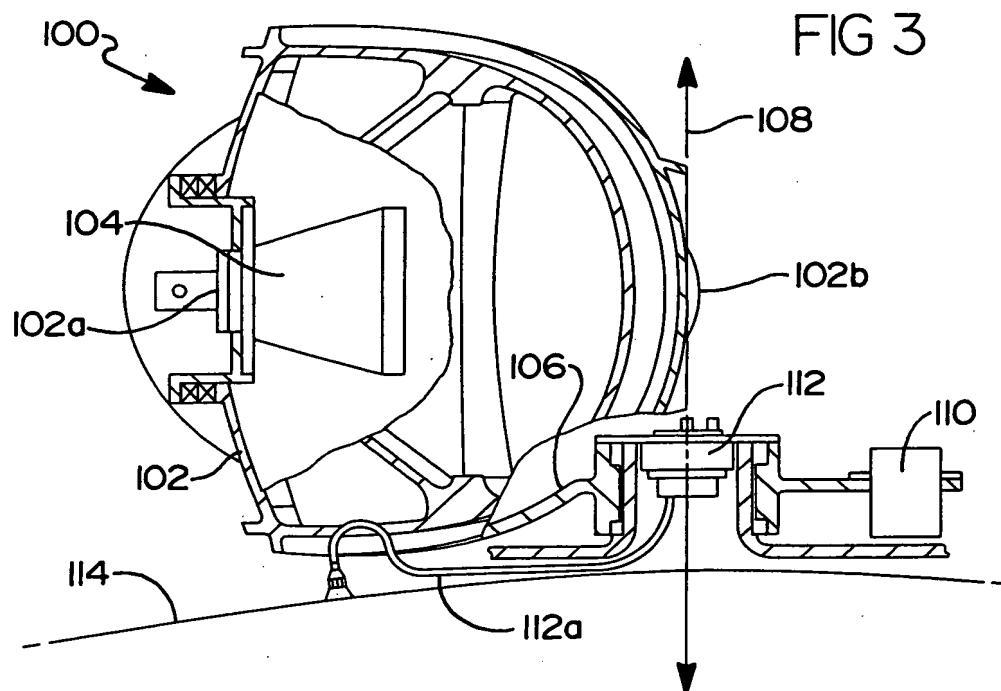


FIG 3

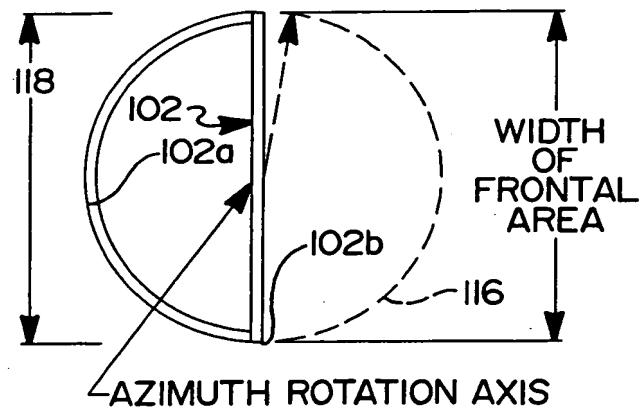


FIG 4